

Victorian Government COVID-19 Response: Metropolitan Melbourne Step Three Restrictions Ease

On Sunday, 18 October Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews, and Minister for Health, Martin Foley announced a transition to revised Step Three Restrictions in Metropolitan Melbourne, and further restrictions easing in Regional Victoria.

The Premier noted that Metropolitan Melbourne's 14 day rolling average was now 7.5, above revised modelling that shaped the Step Three restrictions easement framework. As such, easements will be limited from Monday, 19 October.

From Monday, 19 October in Metropolitan Melbourne restrictions allow for the following **reasons to leave households**:

1. Shopping for essential goods (no limit to the number of people from one household that can leave to shop for necessary goods or services so long as group aligns with public gathering limits).
2. Caregiving or compassionate reasons (including visiting a resting place).
3. Work or education (if permitted worker or student).
4. Exercise and Social Gatherings (within 25km of home or permitted workplace, driving to exercise permitted – permits must be carried if within 25km workplace zone).
5. Letterboxing as a candidate, employee, or volunteer for local government elections.

Household Gatherings:

Households must not have visitors to their homes; however, exemptions include:

- Visiting partners in relationships.
- One nominated visitor for those living alone and single parents with children under 18.
- caregiving, compassionate reasons or for receiving services.

This will mean no visitors for AFL & NFL Grand Finals on Saturday, 24 October and Sunday, 25 October.

Workplace

The Premier announced the restrictions ease will mean a limited number of industries will be allowed to re-open with a COVID-Safe plan. Industry allowed to operate include:

- Hairdressers
- All allied health services
- Household painting and other renovations services (with restrictions)
- Mobile Pet Grooming
- Outdoor photography

| Updated Stage Three Restrictions – 19 October to 01 November | |
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| Category | Restrictions |
| Social | <p>Leave home: 25km limit, some restrictions remain on reasons to leave home or distance, social distancing encouraged.</p> <p>Public gatherings: increased to up to 10 people Outdoors.</p> <p>Visitors to the home: only for caregiving or compassionate reasons.</p> |
| Education and childcare | <p>Childcare and early educators: open.</p> <p>Schools: remote learning with staged return for onsite learning VCE/VCAL and specialist schools, and Prep to Grade 6.</p> <p>Adult education: learn from home if you can, onsite learning for hands-on, skills-based learning.</p> |
| Work | <p>Only go to work if you are in a permitted industry – more workplaces to be permitted in following stages (see industry roadmaps). Work from home if you can.</p> |
| Shopping, Hospitality | <p>Hospitality: take-away and delivery only, food-courts open for take-away and delivery.</p> <p>Retail: open for click and collect, general access as early as 28 October, subject to case numbers.</p> <p>Real estate: auctions can occur with a maximum of 10 people and commercial real estate inspections can occur.</p> <p>Shopping: No limit to the number of people from one household</p> |
| Exercise and recreation | <p>Exercise: outdoors, no time limits. Gathering and density limits, outdoor skateparks open, outdoor fitness for 10 people.</p> <p>Pools: outdoor up to 30 swimmers. Indoor pools open for one-on-one hydrotherapy with a health professional.</p> <p>Outdoor recreation: must be within 25km of home or work if you are a permitted worker, outdoor personal training allowed with up to 10 people per trainer (from a maximum of two households).</p> |
| Ceremonies and Occasions | <p>Weddings: Up to 5 people (plus celebrant) outdoors.</p> <p>Funerals: allowed with up to 10 people (not including infants under 12 months of age or people required to conduct the funeral).</p> <p>Religion: places of worship closed, outdoor gatherings (not ceremonies) of up to 5 people, plus 1 faith leader, proximate to a place of worship, are allowed.</p> |
| Entertainment, leisure and travel | <p>Intrastate travel: not allowed, unless for a permitted purpose.</p> <p>Entertainment: all venues closed.</p> <p>Accommodation: closed, except for a permitted purpose.</p> |

For further details see the Victorian Government's [Industry Easing Levels](#) and ['Roadmap to Reopening'](#).

Advanced Step Three Restrictions Easing

Subject to Metropolitan Melbourne’s 14-day average case numbers, alongside the traceable nature of the cases themselves, Metropolitan Melbourne is set to ease further restrictions Monday, 02 November.

The Premier noted that if case numbers remain below five and are traceable over the next week, the advanced Step Three restrictions may be brought forward a week.

| Updated Stage Three Restrictions – from November 02 | |
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| Category | Restrictions |
| Social | <p>Leave home: no restrictions to leave home or distance, social distancing encouraged.</p> <p>Public gatherings: Up to 10 people Outdoors.</p> <p>Visitors to the home: households allowed up to two adults and two children to visit per household, per day (infants under 12 months of age are not included in the cap).</p> |
| Education and childcare | <p>Childcare and early educators: open</p> <p>Schools: remote learning with potential staged return for onsite learning for Grade 3 to Grade 10 based on public health advice.</p> <p>Adult education: learn from home if you can, onsite learning for hands-on, skills-based learning.</p> |
| Work | <p>Only go to work if you are in a permitted industry – more workplaces to be permitted in following stages (see industry roadmaps). Work from home if possible.</p> |
| Shopping, eating and drinking out | <p>Hospitality: Indoor seating of up to 20, outdoor seating of up to 50 – depending on density limits.</p> <p>Retail: Limited beauty/personal care open.</p> <p>Real estate: private inspections by appointment only, auctions outdoors subject to gathering limits.</p> <p>Shopping: no person limits.</p> |
| Exercise and recreation | <p>Community Sport: Outdoor contact and non-contact sport for ≤18, outdoor non-contact sport only for adults, with gathering and density limits, outdoor skateparks open, outdoor fitness for 10 people.</p> <p>Outdoor recreation: must be within 25km of home or work if you are a permitted worker, outdoor personal training allowed with up to 10 people per trainer, outdoor pools open. Hiking, fishing and other exercises that don’t involve a facility, allowed.</p> <p>Indoor gyms: open for staff members to record and broadcast classes online, with a maximum of five people allowed to be involved with the process.</p> |

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| <p>Ceremonies and Occasions</p> | <p>Religion: outdoor religious gatherings for up to 20 people plus a faith leader, facilities open for private worship for households or social bubbles, plus a faith leader</p> <p>Weddings: Up to 10 people (plus celebrant) outdoors</p> <p>Funerals: allowed with up to 20 people (not including infants under 12 months of age or people required to conduct the funeral) .</p> |
| <p>Entertainment, leisure, and travel</p> | <p>Intrastate travel: Allowed across Third Step area (can't travel to areas with higher restrictions)</p> <p>Entertainment: outdoor venues and events, subject to pre-approved plans. Outdoor seated entertainment will be able to host a maximum of 50 people or 25% of the venue's fixed seat capacity.</p> <p>Accommodation: Open, with caps per the social bubble.</p> |

Regional Victoria

Regional Victoria will enter further restrictions easing From Monday, 19 October. These include:

- Two adults and two children will be able to visit a household per day.
- Hospitality venues can increase their capacity to 70 people outside and 40 people inside.
- Outdoor religious gatherings increase to 20 people.
- Indoor pools will open for people 18 and under to a maximum of 20 people.
- One-on-one hydrotherapy with health professionals will also be allowed.
- Libraries will reopen to a maximum of 20 people.
- Households will now be able to visit a care facility.

From Monday, 02 November:

- Non-contact indoor physical recreation permitted for under 18-year-olds: e.g. dance classes, with maximum of 20 people
- Non-contact indoor community sport permitted for under 18-year-olds: spectators limited to one parent, guardian or carer.

Face Masks

Victorians are required to wear a fitted face mask, covering the nose and mouth. Masks are mandatory *across all of Victoria* when outside households for everyone over the age of twelve. Exceptions apply, including for relevant medical conditions.

Further Information

For more information, please contact your Hawker Britton consultant, Victorian Director, JP Blandthorn on +61 407 366 304 or Policy and Business Analyst, Raphael Mengem at rmengem@hawkerbritton.com.

Further Hawker Britton Occasional Papers on the activities of the Victorian Government are available [here](#). For further coverage of Labor Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic see Hawker Britton Briefs [here](#). For further coverage of Liberal Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic see Barton Deakin Briefs [here](#).